

Gyr Falcon  
CA 1978  
not given, IA  
Steve Duecker  
Duecker 1978

Record Number: 81-FD  
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Duecker, S. 1978. Two visitors. IBL 48:80.

VOTE (1981): 7-V

V, very casual comment, I don't know the observer.

V, Steve is an experienced falconer with firsthand knowledge of this species and similar ones. Can he present more detailed account.

V, no data.

V, contact Steve for details.

V, no data. The casual reference to various very rare hawks other than the gyr. makes one skeptical of the whole report.

V, Duecker is apparently an experienced raptor enthusiast and his sightings may be correct, but details are required (I had a letter from him about a female shsh Hawk he saw -- he seemed to know what he was talking about).

Duecker, S. 1978. Two visitors. Iowa Bird Life 48:80

**Two Visitors** - On September 10, 1977, while exercising my old Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), we were visited by an immature female Richardson's Merlin (*Falco columbarius richardsoni*). She came in and made several spectacular stoops at the Redtail. She showed little fear of the Redtail or myself. I fed the Redtail and hurried home for my nets to trap her for banding. Unfortunately when I returned she was not in the area.

Later in the fall, on November 9, 1977, two days after a blizzard with high winds, an adult male Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) flew in front of the car just outside Anthon, Iowa. He then turned and stooped at the Starlings in a cattle yard. This brought him in front of the car again. I stopped to watch and he made several more passes at the birds, all unsuccessful.

From this information I would like to present a couple of my thoughts. The first is, that it seems that Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) and Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) migrate through Iowa much earlier than most people think. I feel also, many Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) migrate early. By early, I mean middle of August. Many times I've seen Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks this time of the year. This early migration is probably overlooked by many banders.

The second idea I would like to present is that in the western part of the state winter storms from the North or Northwest drive many birds of prey into our area. After these storms I've observed Prairie Falcons, Gyrfalcons, and Goshawks. In fact, during one of these storms, I watched a male Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) go to roost in a deep thick grove. The next morning I captured and banded him. So during storms in the winter and early in the fall, keep your eye open. - STEVE DUECKER, Box 275, Danbury. ]